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Central Bisayan OA14

[For a discussion of the history of Negros and of Siaton in particular, see 20: Hart, OA1 Philippines, category 116, pp. 135-258. --Analyst]

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treasurer, postmaster, agricultural and sanitary inspectors are appointive positions. The provinces are roughly similar to American states while the municipalities correspond in many aspects to American counties. The mayors of the chartered cities, Dumaguete and Bacolod, are appointed by the President of the Philippines. One municipal district, Bago, is located in Negros Oriental; all the officials of this district are appointed by the provincial governor.

The Visayans

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This section is a brief introduction to the people of the Visayas with emphasis on the present inhabitants of Negros. The pre-Hispanic names for Negros were Buglas (Binglas), Nayon, and Mamaylan, the latter two probably derived from settlements in the vicinity of Himamaylan.[7] The Negritos or people of a mixed Indonesian-Papuan-Negrito stock were the first inhabitants of the Philippines. When the Spaniards first visited Buglas, they reported Negritos living on the island. "In one of the large islands there were so many of them [Negritos] that it is for that reason called the island of Negros."[8] Whether

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[7] Miguel de Loarca, "Relación de las Yslas Filipinas" (Relations of the Filipinas Islands), Iloilo City, Philippines, June, 1582. Emma H. Blair and James A. Robertson, The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898. Cleveland, Ohio, Arthur H. Clark, 1903-1909, V, p. 47.

[8] Francisco Colin, S.J., "Native Races and Their Customs" (Labor Evangelica). Madrid, 1663. Translation in Blair and Robertson, op. cit., XL, p. 45.

(Negros Occidental) which is remarkably like Malaysian finds in west-central Borneo.[11]

The culture of the modern Visayan Filipinos represents more than Indonesian and Malaysian elements. During the 8th or 9th centuries, A.D., emigrants from the empire of Sri-Vishaya pushed into already settled areas of Borneo and southern Philippines. Sri-Vishaya first developed in Sumatra and flourished from the 5th to the 14th centuries, although not as a compact empire during its latter years. Sri-Vishaya was nominally Buddhist, considerably modified by Brahmanistic ideas. Hindu influences also may have entered Sulu from the empire of Champa in southern Annam, Indo-China. In the traditional history of Sulu there is some evidence of Champa settlements in this region between the 9th and 12th centuries, A.D.[12]

Settlers came to Sulu and Mindanao and later to the central and eastern Visayas from one of the chief Sri-Vishayan culture centers, Bandjarmasin (Borneo). Most of the emigrants that reached Panay and Negros, appear to have come from another Sri-Vishayan culture

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[11] H. Otley Beyer, "Outline Review of Philippine Archaeology by Islands and Provinces," The Philippine Journal of Science, LXXVII, Nos. 3-4 (July-August, 1947), p.292.

[12] H. Otley Beyer, "The Philippines Before Magellan. 1: The Hindus in Malaysia," Asia, XXI, No. 10 (October, 1921), p.862.

center, Brunei.[13] It is known that in the 13th century some of the settlers of Panay moved to western Negros.[14] Besides bringing highly developed industrial arts these emigrants from Borneo brought different religious and social concepts. The pre-Hispanic Visayan art of Panay is a mixture of Brahman and Buddhist elements; this is true also of the oral literature and folklore.

The name, Visayan (or Bisaya), given to Filipinos of this mid-section of the Philippine archipelago, is said to derive from either the Spanish term, Los Pintados ("The Painted or Tattooed People")--which translated Viseys--or Sri-Vishaya. Beyer writes:

> The name 'Visayan' in the Philippines was first applied only to the natives of Panay and to their settlements eastward in the island of Negros and northward in the smaller islands now comprehended in the province of Romblon. In fact, even at the time when the Spaniards came they used the term

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[13] G. Nye Steiger, H. Otley Beyer, and Conrado Benitez, A History of the Orient. New York, Ginn and Company, 1926, p.118.

[14] An old Philippine history, Maragtas, relates the settling of Panay in the first quarter of the 13th century by nine datus (chiefs) from northern Borneo. The Maragtas was compiled by Pedro Alcantara Monteclaro from several ancient manuscripts and other records; later this history was translated into Spanish by G. Santiago-Cuino. In 1943 Manuel Carreron made an English translation of the Spanish manuscript. Both Carreron and the noted Filipino historian, C. F. Zaide, believe the code in the Maragtas was promulgated in 1212. While the Maragtas has not been published, I was able to secure a typed copy of Carreron's translation.